

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17, and 18 are pending, in which claims 1, 6, 8, 10, and 13 are currently amended. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action mailed January 30, 2004 rejected claims 1, 4, and 5 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Shah et al.* (US 5,646,936) in view of *Shiragaki* (US 5,457,556) and in further view of *Brady* (US 6,041,049). Claims 6, 8, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as indefinite, but otherwise would be allowable. Claim 13 is objected to for depending on canceled claim 12.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 11, 13-15, 17, and 18 are allowed.

The dependency of claim 13 has been changed to depend from claim 11.

Claims 6 and 8 have been amended to address the § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection.

To advance prosecution, Applicants have incorporated the allowable features of dependent claim 10 into independent claim 1. In view of the claim amendment, the obviousness rejection is rendered moot.

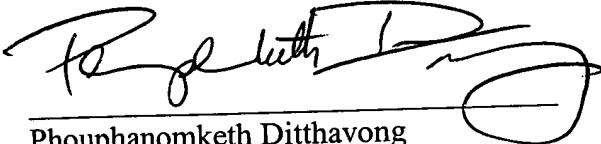
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Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG & CARLSON, P.C.

4/29/04
Date


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